



Golfers win[✓] state title

Dragons capture third championship in program history

By Mike Rubin
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As the final scores were tallied, Duxbury High golf coach Jack Stoddard couldn't wipe away the tears of joy from his face.

Junior sensation Jon Stoddard recorded an even par 72 as the Dragons claimed this year's Division 2 State title in Tuesday's championships at Blackstone National Golf Course in Sutton.

The Dragons, who earned their third state title as a program, also captured the title in 2006 and in 1999. Following the match, Stoddard's emotions were simply filled with excitement.

With non-league archrivals Sandwich favored to win the title, the Dragons pulled through with a team-low score of 313, besting

the Blue Knights by two strokes (315). In last year's state championships, the Dragons finished fifth with a score of 339.

"Words can't describe the feeling right now," said an emotional Stoddard, wiping away the tears.

Golf

"These kids have worked so hard during the season.

We've had a demanding schedule, and at times we've played (four to five) matches in a week. We've had to travel a lot, but we stuck together as a team and their work ethic has been unbelievable. They've definitely earned it and it's one of my greatest moments coaching this program."

Stoddard, who emerged in a tie for the low medalist of the day with Catholic Memorial's Joseph

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Jon Stoddard shot an even-par 72 to lead Duxbury to the Division 2 state championship title.

STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

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Harney, recorded four birdies. After nailing a birdie on the 12th hole, Stoddard's hot hand on the golf course continued, knocking down birdies on the 15th, 17th, and 18th holes.

"I felt pretty confident coming in," Jon Stoddard said. "We had a great practice round here the other day, and I got familiar with the layout of the course. I just went out there, and played my game. My drives off the tee were strong, and I was able to make most of my putts on the greens. It feels great to win the (state title), but it was a team effort and everyone contributed."

Another solid performance from the Dragons came from James Magnier, who recorded a three-over-par 75. On the front nine, Magnier recorded a 36 before finishing with a 39 in the back. During his round, Magnier also

emerged with three birdies (second, sixth, and 16th holes).

"It feels great winning the (state) title," said Magnier. "When you're out there playing, you're not really concerned about it. You just want to go out there and play your best round, and help your team win. There were a few shots that I could've had back, but overall, I was very happy with the way I shot, and it was a good day."

Despite three-putting a pair of holes on the back nine, Magnier managed to stay the course and deliver a solid finish.

"The course was very challenging and the greens were long," Magnier said. "I had to make some adjustments with my putting, but other than that I felt very comfortable out there. It's just unbelievable and hard to believe that we're (state champions)."

Billy Curley, who finished the day with a score of 82, recorded a

40 on the front nine and finished the back with a 42.

"The (greens) were very long, and some of them were tough to judge," Curley said. "It was definitely a challenging course. The fairways were long and narrow, and the greens were long. I thought I could've played a little better, but we all tried our best, and it's a great feeling that we won the (state title)."

Other finishers for the Dragons included Kevin Kuckuk, who recorded an 84, followed by Stephan Krall with an 85 and Bobby O'Brien with an 86.

"I'm so proud of this team," Coach Jack Stoddard said. "We faced some adversity in the beginning, but they kept battling and battling and never gave up. They dedicated themselves to the game, and they're just a great group of guys."